

REMARKS

Applicants have added claims 25 and 26. The above amendment to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.14, wherein the issue fee was not paid.

In view of the above amendment and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due consideration to above-outlined amendments to the claims, to confirm the allowability of claims 1-24, to indicate the allowability of new claims 25-26, and to proceed with the issuance of this allowed application.

Favorable consideration of the above amendment is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the issuance of the above-captioned allowed application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344

Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

April 12, 2004